

Applicant: Proctor Jr. et al.
Application No.: 10/717,995

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 30 – 38 are currently pending in this application. Claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 are canceled without prejudice. New claims 30 – 38 are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,470,001 to Kim et al. (hereinafter Kim) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,287 to Katsura et al. (hereinafter Katsura).

Applicants' disclose a method and base station for aligning a field unit that comprises receiving a reverse link signal from a field unit and determining a gross timing offset with respect to reverse link channels from other field units sharing the same reverse link possible channel. A metric associated with the received reverse link signal is calculated and a determination based on the metric whether the base station should control the alignment of the field unit is selectively made. The references cited by the Examiner do not disclose the determining of a gross timing offset with respect to reverse link channels from other field units and calculating a metric used to determine whether the base station should control the alignment of the field unit.

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Kim discloses a system for time aligning a reverse link transmission. The method uses orthogonal codes on a reverse link for both user identification and to improve the performance of the reverse link. A difference between an actual sync channel and a reference sync channel is calculated and the difference used to estimate a supplemental channel. If the difference between the sync channel and the reference sync channel exceeds a predetermined value, time alignment is performed. There is no suggestion or teaching in Kim regarding the determination of a gross timing offset with respect to reverse link channels from other field units, nor selectively determining, based on a calculated metric associated with the received reverse link signal, whether the base station should control the alignment of the field unit, as claimed in newly added claim 30.

The Examiner has further cited Katsura as disclosing handing off from one base station to another, thus reassigning timing control of the terminal and wherein the mobile station comprises a synchronization circuit and timing generation circuit to adjust the transmission timing. Katsura does not disclose the elements that are not present in Kim, including determining a gross timing offset with respect to reverse link channels from other field units and determining based on the metric associated with the received reverse link signal whether the base station should control the alignment of the field unit. Accordingly, neither Kim nor Katsura, alone or in combination with one another suggest or teach Applicant's disclosed method

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and base station. Therefore, claims 30 – 38 are not obvious in view of the cited references.

Claims 31 – 38 are dependent upon claim 30, and the Applicants believe these claims are allowable over the cited references of record for the same reasons provided above.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

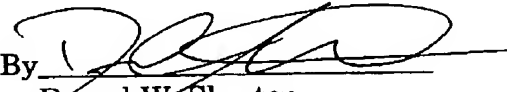
If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures